

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

Replace Figs. 6A, 6B, 7, 8, 9A and 9B with the figures shown on the attached replacement sheets.

REMARKS

The application has been amended in a manner that is believed to place the same in condition for allowance at the time of the next Official Action.

At pages 2-3 of the Official Action, certain objections were made to the drawings as filed.

In response to the Examiner's observation that the concluding figures in the application should be labeled as "Prior Art", applicant agrees, and the same is done herewith by the submission of appropriate replacement sheets in which the prior art label has been applied.

The drawings were also objected to as allegedly not showing the first tab and the second tab recited in claims 6 and 8.. However, the drawings do show those features. See, for example, Fig. 2, wherein the recited first tab corresponds to element 11a, and the recited second tab corresponds to element 11. Figure 2 is cited in this regard solely by way of example, as the recited first and second tabs may take other forms. Nevertheless, for the purpose of demonstrating compliance with the drawing requirements, the above notation to the record is believed to be sufficient.

Claims 1 and 10-13 as previously in the case were rejected for anticipation based on TSUCHIYA et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,471,150). That rejection is respectfully traversed, for the following reasons.

TSUCHIYA et al. is representative of the background prior art already discussed and distinguished in the present specification, in that the rotation of the leader block relative to the carriage is not effectively controlled, which lack of control gives rise to the disadvantages already discussed in the specification in connection with the prior art.

In attempting to read the original claims 1 and 10-13 on TSUCHIYA et al., the Official Action evidently regards the holding element (claim 1 and claim 13) and the "means for selectively restraining and releasing rotation" (claim 12) as reading on the hooks 12-2 of TSUCHIYA et al.

However, the hooks 12-2 of TSUCHIYA et al. are merely the elements which engage the leader pin, and do not correspond to the holding element or the selective restraining means of the claimed invention.

For example, and solely by way of illustration, the preferred embodiments of the invention use as the holding element the portion 11 of the leader block, which serves not only to clamp the leader pin in its held position, but also to selectively engage and disengage the shaft that serves as the rotary interconnection between the leader block and the carriage.

This fundamental distinction between the claimed invention and the applied prior art is more clearly brought out in the independent claims, by way of the present amendment, in the recitation that the recited holding element and selective

restraining means are engageable with and disengageable from the shaft on which the leader block is rotatably mounted. That recitation cannot be said to be true of the hooks 12-2 of TSUCHIYA et al., which never engage with the shaft of that reference.

Consequently, it is believed that claims 1 and 10-13 can no longer be regarded as anticipated by TSUCHIYA et al., and withdrawal of that rejection is respectfully requested.

The remaining dependent claims 2-9 were rejected based on the proposed combination of TSUCHIYA et al. in view of NEMETH (U.S. Patent No. 6,318,656). That rejection is also respectfully traversed, for the following reasons.

The Official Action points to Figure 12 of NEMETH as describing a spring-loaded clamp for more securely holding the leader pin. However, the spring-loaded clamp of NEMETH does not cause the leader block to selectively engage and disengage the shaft on which it is rotatably mounted. Instead, the spring-loaded clamp of NEMETH serves solely to more securely hold the leader pin. The differences between NEMETH and preferred embodiments of the present invention are apparent in present Figs. 2 and 4A-4C, wherein it can be seen that the preferred holding element of those embodiments includes not only a spring-loaded tab 11 for more securely holding the leader pin in slots 10a, but also portion 11b of the holding element structure, which

selectively engages with the rotary shaft 5b (see Fig. 4A), and disengages therefrom (see Figs. 4B and 4C).

Accordingly, it is believed also to be evident that, even if the skilled artisan were to have modified the TSUCHIYA et al. structure in view of NEMETH, the claimed invention still would not have been achieved.

It is therefore believed that the claims as thus amended are free of the applied prior art.

We note that new dependent claims 14-16 are added by way of the present amendment. In new claim 14, the newly-recited elements find support in the drawings and the accompanying text of the specification by way of example as follows:

Rotator - element (20)
leader block - element (10)
stopper - element (20a)
first tab - element (11a)
clamp - element (11b)

The new claims 15 and 16 contain similar recitations, and also contain subject matter similar to that already recited in claims 4, 7 and 8. Neither Tsuchiya nor Nemeth discloses the recited stopper and the first tab. Furthermore, neither of these references discloses the relationship between the stopper and the first tab.

In view of the present amendment and the foregoing remarks, therefore, it is believed that this application is now in condition for allowance, with claims 1-13, as amended. Allowance and passage to issue on that basis are accordingly respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andrew J. Patch", is written over a horizontal line.

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APPENDIX:

The Appendix includes the following items:

- replacement sheets for Figs. 6A, 6B, 7, 8, 9A and 9B